ween need and availability of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) A proposal to this effect was received from the Government of Maharashtra in June 1992.

(e) Natural Gas is being used for the generation of power at power stations located in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradcs, Assam and Delhi.

Losses in Oil Sector

365. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRI-DHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank Study has revealed that India has lost $2.0 billion in oil sector due to inefficient use of invcstiblc resources in the oil sector;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to find out the causes responsible therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to avoid such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) In a Memorandum prepared by the World Bank, a reference has been made to Investment deficiencies in the oil sector.

(c) To contain the flaring of gas, ONGC have undertaken the Gas Flaring Reduction Project in the Western Offshore region at an estimated cost of US $3.2 billion. Projects to reduce flaring arc also being implemented in Gujarat and Assam. For maintaining the health of the reservoir, ONGC have taken up re-ctificatory measures as suggested by the Dasgupta Committee.

Identification of Petroleum Reserve Areas in Bihar

367. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain areas having substantial concentration of petroleum reserves have been identified in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these oil reserve areas are proposed to be included in the programme for oil exploration in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Royalty on Crude Oil

368. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PET ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of royalty on crude oil is pending with the Government for final decision;

(b) what are the recommendations of the Ishwaran Committee to fix the royalty on crude oil;

(c) whether Government have accepted the above recommendations; and

(d) by when Government would take a final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The entire issue is under the consideration of the Government.